

Richard Ackerman
140 Elm Drive, Roslyn, New York 11576

January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a business owner, I am quite familiar with how nonproductive expenses can hurt your business and, in turn, your customers. The amount of money that has been wasted on the Microsoft vs. US suit escapes reason. Both the federal government and Microsoft have spent millions of dollars on the suit; money that could have been better spent, in the case of the Department of Justice, pursuing true criminals and in Microsoft's case, creating better technology products for the consumer. The problem that the federal government has created in the economy and in the IT industry with this lawsuit will take years to repair.

Like many residents of New York, I am relieved that the lawsuit may have finally found a resolution at the federal level. The end to this entire matter cannot come soon enough. The suit has become a burdensome ordeal for all those involved parties. For Microsoft, the task of having to defend itself as a business before the federal government for working in the same way any other business might is an embarrassment to the American way of doing business. It is time that the Department of Justice ends this suit once and for all. The terms of this settlement allow for the public interest to be represented. Please move on and end this judicial debacle.

Sincerely,



Richard Ackerman